PROSPECT PARK FAIR GROUNDS.

Third Day of the Second Autumn Meeting.

Three Trotting Contests—Lady White the Winner of the First, Lady Woods and Mate the Second and Comee the Third.

Three trotting races came off at Prospect Park Fair Grounds yesterday afternoon, the first being the unfinished race of Wednesday, the second a team race and the third a trot between horses that had never beaten 2:26. The latter was the great event of the day, there being seven starters of the ten original entries. These were Comee, Barney Kelly, Bella, Lady Banker, Mystic, Charley Green and Kittie D. The track was heavy but the weather was delightful. The following are the details:—

THE FIRST TROT.

PROSPECT PARK FAIR GROUNDS, Oct. 7—SECOND DAY OF THE SECOND FALL MEETING.—Purse $600, for horses that have never beaten 2:36; $350 to the first, $150 to the second and $100 to the third horse; mile heats, best three in five, in harness.

STARTERS.

M. H. Whipple's b. m. Lady White	4	1	1	5	6	1
G. Walker's blk. m. May Bird	3	2	2	1	1	2
A. A. Einstein's blk. g. Blk. Crook	1	3	4	3	3	3
A. Patterson's b. g. W. Walsh	2	5	6	4	2	ro
W. S. Thom's br. g. Phil O'Neil	6	4	3	2	4	ro
H. Casey's r. m. Rosa Sonberg	8	7	5	6	7	ro
A. Snyder's b. g. Mausnay	9	8	7	7	5	ro
W. E. Weeks' b. m. Belle Cleaveland	5	6	8	dr.		
A. Goldsmith's b. m. Lottie	7	dis.				

TIME.

	Quarter.	Half.	Mile.
First heat	39¾	1:18¾	2:34½
Second heat	39	1:17¼	2:32
Third heat	37¼	1:15½	2:32¼
Fourth heat	38½	1:17	2:33¾
Fifth heat	40	1:19	2:36½
Sixth heat	37¾	1:12¾	2:33½

Sixth Heat.—May Bird was the favorite over the field, at odds. At the twelfth time of trying the horses were given the "Go!" with Lady White several lengths in front, and she was five lengths in the lead at the quarter pole, in 37¾ seconds, May Bird second, two lengths ahead of Black Crook. At the half-mile pole Lady White was leading eight lengths, the others trailing hopelessly on. Time, 1:12¾. Going down the lower stretch Lady White's breeching broke, and she came nearly to a standstill. May Bird soon was up to Lady White, but then she broke up and kept up until Lady White began trotting again and was going so that there was no doubt of her winning. Some said Mr. Walker became so confused in his anxiety to pass Lady White when she was on the break that he lost control of his own mare, broke her and could not gather her up again. This may be so, but some people think differently. Mr. Walker, however, had a great deal of money pending on his winning, and this may have caused his confusion when Lady White broke up. May Bird was second, Black Crook third. Time, 2:33½.

THE SECOND TROT.

PROSPECT PARK FAIR GROUNDS, Oct. 8—THIRD DAY OF FALL TROTTING MEETING.—Purse $500, for teams; $300 to the first, $150 to the second and $50 to the third horse; mile heats; best three in five, in harness.

ENTRIES.

D. B. Goff's br. m. Lady Woods and b. m. Carrie N.	1	1	1
J. H. Phillips' b. m. Ella Madden and b. s. Regulus	2	2	2
G. N. Ferguson's br. g. Frank Ferguson and w. g. Crown Prince	dr.		
A. H. Schenck's b. g. Listener and blk. g. Adonis	dr.		

TIME.

	Quarter.	Half.	Mile.
First heat	44	1:27½	2:55
Second heat	44½	1:26	2:48¼
Third heat	41	1:20	2:42½

First Heat.—Lady Woods and Carrie N. were the favorites. They took the lead and went to the quarter pole two lengths in advance of Ella Madden and Regulus. At the half-mile pole Lady Woods and mate were half a length ahead, and they finished the heat with a length the best of it. The quarter pole was reached in 44, the half-mile pole in 1:27½, and the heat in 2:55.

Second Heat.—Lady Woods and Carrie N. were great favorites, selling for $100 to $25. The teams had an even start and were never apart during the heat. Lady Woods and mate took the lead on the turn and passed the quarter pole three-quarters of a length in front, in 44½ seconds. They were half a length ahead at the half-mile pole, in 1:26, and came home winners by half a length in 2:48¼.

Third Heat.—The Lady Woods team took the lead, were never headed, and won the race by two lengths. They trotted to the quarter pole in 41 seconds, the half-mile in 1:20, and made the mile in 2:42½.

THE THIRD TROT.

SAME DAY.—Purse $1,000, for horses that have never beaten 2:26; $550 to the first, $350 to the second and $100 to the third horse; mile heats, best three in five, in harness.

ENTRIES.

W. W. Comee's b. g. Comee	3	1	1	1
W. L. Simmons' b. m. Bella	1	3	5	4
W. Lovell's b. g. Barney Kelly	2	2	2	3
S. N. Ferguson's b. m. Lady Banker	4	5	3	2
J. Murphy's b. g. Charley Green	5	4	6	6
J. H. Phillips' b. g. Mystic	7	6	4	5
A. Falk's b. m. Kittie D.	6	7	7	dr
Otis Borst's b. g. Confidence	dr.			
W. E. Week's g. g. Tanner Boy	dr.			
Dan Mace's blk. m. Blanche	dr.			

TIME.

	Quarter.	Half.	Mile.
First heat	36½	1:13½	2:26½
Second heat	38	1:13½	2:27
Third heat	37	1:13	2:25½
Fourth heat	37	1:14	2:28½

First Heat.—Comee was the favorite over the field at 100 to 35. Bella took the lead, Kittie D. second, Charley Green third, Comee fourth, Barney Kelly fifth, Mystic sixth, Lady Banker seventh. Bella was first at the quarter pole by three lengths, Kittie D. second, Charley Green third, Mystic fourth, Comee fifth, Barney Kelly sixth, Lady Banker seventh. Time, 36½ seconds. Bella kept the lead to the half-mile pole, passing that point two lengths in front of Comee in 1:13½, Kittie D. third, Charley Green fourth, Barney Kelly fifth, Mystic sixth, Lady Banker seventh. Barney Kelly then made a fine burst of speed, and, passing through the horses, showed in front at the three-quarter pole. He then broke up, and Bella and Comee came away from him side and side. Bella kept in front and won the heat by a length, Barney Kelly second, a head in front of Comee, Lady Banker fourth, Charley Green fifth, Kittie D. sixth, Mystic seventh. Time, 2:26½.

Second Heat.—The field the favorite, Comee second choice, Bella the third in favor. Bella took the lead, Barney Kelly second, Comee third, Lady Banker fourth, Kittie D. fifth, Charley Green sixth. At the quarter pole Comee led a neck in 38 seconds, Bella second, Lady Banker third, Barney Kelly fourth, Charley Green fifth, Mystic sixth, Kittie D. far behind on a break. At the half-mile pole, which was passed in 1:13½, Comee led one length, Bella second, two lengths ahead of Charley Green, Barney Kelly fourth, Mystic fifth, Lady Banker sixth, Kittie D. a quarter of a mile behind, her driver making no effort to make her trot. Comee led down the lower stretch, and was two lengths ahead at the three-quarter pole, Bella second, Barney Kelly third, Charley Green fourth, Mystic fifth, Lady Banker sixth. Comee came on steadily, and won the heat by a length, Barney Kelly second, Bella third, Charley Green fourth, Lady Banker fifth, Mystic sixth, Kittie D. seventh, who was over a quarter of a mile behind, but the judges believing that she was pulled did not distance her. Time, 2:27.

Third Heat.—Bella was in front, Comee second, Charley Green third, Lady Banker fourth, Barney Kelly fifth, Mystic sixth, Kittie D. seventh. At the quarter pole Comee led a neck, Barney Kelly second, Bella third, Charley Green fourth, Lady Banker fifth, Kittie D. sixth, Mystic seventh, the latter having broken up. Kittie D. was on a pace at that point. Time, 37 seconds. Barney Kelly then broke up, and Comee led to the half-mile pole, three lengths, Barney Kelly second, two lengths in front of Charley Green, Bella fourth, Lady Banker fifth, Mystic sixth, Kittie D. still pacing far behind. Comee kept in front to the end, winning the race by a length, Barney Kelly second, two lengths ahead of Lady Banker, the latter being six lengths in advance of Mystic, Bella fifth, Charley Green sixth, Kittie seventh. Time of the heat, 2:25½.

Fourth Heat.—Comee the favorite over the field at long odds. Kittie D. was withdrawn. Charley Green was in front at the start, Bella second, Mystic third, Lady Banker fourth, Comee fifth, Barney Kelly sixth. At the quarter pole Bella led two lengths in 37 seconds, Lady Banker second, Comee third, Barney Kelly fourth, Charley Green fifth, Mytic sixth. The half-mile pole was passed by Bella in 1:14, three lengths in front of Comee, Barney Kelly fourth, Mystic fifth, Charley Green sixth. Going down the lower stretch Barney Kelly and Comee went to the front, and they passed the three-quarter pole head and head, and in that way entered the homestretch, but then Barney broke up, and Comee coming steadily on won the heat by two lengths, Lady Banker second, Barney Kelly third, Bella fourth, Mystic fifth, Charley Green sixth. Time, 2:28½.

The meeting at Prospect Park Fair Grounds will close to-day with two trotting races.

NASHVILLE RACES.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 9, 1874.

The attendance to-day, the fifth of the fall meeting of the Nashville Blood Horse Association, was the largest of the week, the ladies' stand being crowded. The running in the first race was the finest ever witnessed on this course. The second race was very exciting.

FIRST RACE.

Young America Stakes No. 2, for two-year-old colts and fillies; mile dash; $25 entrance fee, p. p., the association to add $220; $50 to second horse. There were thirty entries and the following started:—

McGibbon's ch. c., by Asteroid	0	1
Warding's ch. c., Ventilator	0	2
McIntire & Swing's b. f. Katie Pearce	3	

Time, 1:46¾—1:46¾.

According to the rules of the association the first heat had to be run over. Pools on this race previous to the start sold as follows:—Katie Pearce 75; Harding's entries 25; McGibben's entries 10; the field 8; Bob Woolley's 6. After the dead heat, McGibben's sold at 220 and Hardings' 134.

SECOND RACE.

Best three in five, for the Association purse of $400.

Franklin's b. m. Arizona	1	0	1	1
Crawford's br. h. Granger	3	3	2	2
Swigert's ch. c. Egypt	2	0	3dis	

Time, 1:47¾—1:46¾—1:49—1:51¾.

The pools sold on this race before the first heat averaged:—Egypt, $220; Arizona, $180; Granger, $16. After the first heat Arizona sold for $200 against $48 for the field. After the second heat, Arizona, $160; Granger, $50, and Egypt, $40.

THIRD RACE.

Mile dash, for Association purse of $125.

Swigert's ch. c. Elkhorn	1
Scott's b. m. Lady Greenfield	2

Time, 1:47½.

In the pools Elkhorn sold at $110 and Lady Greenfield at $17.

AMERICAN JOCKEY CLUB.

The racing to-day, judging from the varied character of the several contests, will be highly entertaining. Five events are on the card, the first being a selling race of a mile and a half; the second the Grand National Handicap sweepstakes, a dash of two miles and a half; the third the Annual Sweepstakes, a dash of two miles and an eighth; the fourth the Champagne Stakes, a dash of three-quarters of a mile by two-year olds; and the fifth mile heats. The following is a list of some of the pools sold last night on the several events:—

SELLING RACE.

Kadi, 99 lbs	$50
Galway, 101 lbs	30
Resolute, 96 lbs	25
Leamington colt, 96 lbs	20
Rosebud, 93 lbs	10
Scratch, 83 lbs	10

GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP.

Mate, 114 lbs	$60	140
Fellowcraft, 108 lbs	50	105
Abd-el-Koree, 105 lbs	20	45
Shylock, 105 lbs	15	40
Jack Frost, 104 lbs	20	40
Lizzie Lucas, 102 lbs	20	40
Bessie Lee, 105 lbs	10	30

ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES.

Cottrill	$80	150	160	160
Vandalite	65	105	110	105
Rutherfurd	10	35	30	35

CHAMPAGNE STAKES.

Firework	$160	155	70
James A.	100	85	60
Australind	85	65	50
Bayminster	75	65	55
Hyder Ali	60	40	35
Betty Ward, colt	40	30	—
Gladiateur, filly	35	30	10
Aniella	30	20	20
Ravena	20	15	15
Elmwood	20	15	15

MILE HEATS.

Preakness	$200	150
Survivor	55	45
Jury	55	20
Spindrift	25	30
Colonel Nelligan	10	10
Frank	5	10

Special trains will leave the Grand Central depot for the Jerome Siding at half past twelve and one o'clock.

A VILLANOUS CRIME.

Some scoundrel has been poisoning horses at Prospect Park Fair Grounds. The wretch poured Croton oil down the ventilators of the stables into the mangers of the horses. Dan Mace's black gelding Arthur took a quantity of the oil in his food, and is dangerously ill. H. Woodruff's bay gelding Falmouth Boy also took some in his food, and is quite sick. Mr. Conley's fine horse Thomas L. Young received the oil in his face, and is badly blistered, while the gray gelding Tanner Boy is dangerously injured by the oil getting into his left eye and down his face on to his knees. This horse is sadly disfigured, and it is feared will lose his eye. The proprietors of the course offer a reward of $500 for the conviction of the miscreant that poured the oil down the ventilators, and it is sincerely to be hoped that he may be discovered and punished.

THE NATIONAL GAME.

A Close and Exciting Contest Between the Boston and Mutual Nines—New York Ahead.

No more exciting game than that contested by the Boston and Mutual nines yesterday afternoon on the Union Grounds has been played in this vicinity this season. The two clubs are so close in the race for championship honors that their games excite much more than ordinary interest, in proof of which it is only necessary to state that yesterday's meeting was witnessed by not fewer than seven thousand spectators. From the first the Mutuals had the call in betting at odds of 100 to 80, the betting men feeling confident of the New Yorkers' ability to come out of the match with flying colors.

On the Mutual side the finest fielding, and it was remarkably fine, was shown by Burdock, Hatfield, Start and Remsen, Start also leading at the bat, while, for the Bostons, Barnes, White and Leonard distinguished themselves. The Mutuals were outbatted, but, in turn, beat the Bostons in the field. The score follows:—

BOSTON.

Players.	R.	1B.	PO.	A.	E.
G. Wright, s. s.	0	3	3	1	3
Barnes, 2d b.	1	1	1	3	0
Spalding, p.	1	2	2	1	1
White, c.	0	1	5	0	2
McVey, r. f.	0	0	1	0	0
Leonard, l. f.	0	0	5	0	0
H. Wright, c. f.	0	1	1	0	0
O'Rourke, 1st b.	1	1	9	0	1
Schafer, 3d b.	0	0	0	1	3
Totals	3	9	27	6	10

MUTUAL.

Players.	R.	1B.	PO.	A.	E.
Higham, c.	0	0	3	0	5
Allison, r. f.	1	0	1	0	0
Start, 1st b.	1	2	14	0	0
Carey, s. s.	0	0	0	3	2
Hatfield, l. f.	1	1	3	0	1
Nelson, 2d b.	1	0	0	5	0
Burdock, 3d b.	0	1	3	5	1
Remsen, c. f.	0	1	3	1	0
Matthews, p.	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	4	5	27	15	10

INNINGS.

Clubs.	1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	
Boston	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	—3
Mutual	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	—4

Runs earned—Boston, 1; Mutual, 0.
First base by errors of opponents—Boston, 4 times; Mutual, 4 times.
Time of game—Two hours.
Umpire—Mr. Clapp, of the Athletic club.

Base Ball Notes.

The Bostons and Atlantics play on the Union Grounds this afternoon.

Higham, Remsen, Carey and Burdock have signed papers to play in the Hartford nine next season.

Suicide of a Veteran Base Ball Player.

Peter O'Brien, a well-known contractor and a life-long resident of Brooklyn, committed suicide yesterday afternoon, while laboring under an attack of temporary aberration, supposed to have been caused by the excessive use of stimulants. Mr. O'Brien shot himself with a fowling piece in the forehead, at his place of residence, No. 542 Third avenue, South Brooklyn. Death was instantaneous. He was for several years one of the first nine of the Atlantic Base Ball Club, which won such a high record in the national game. Deceased, who was about fifty years of age, lost his wife about two years ago, and took her death dreadfully to heart. He leaves a large family of children. Coroner Jones was notified.

WESTON'S WALK.

On Thursday night Weston retired to his room at 12h. 28m. 12s. He was suffering considerably at this time from his left foot, which was very sore, causing him great pain. When he was stripped to be put to bed the wonder was that he had ever been able to walk on it at all. He had by this time completed his 250th mile, having been able to walk but nineteen miles during the entire day. He was attended to by Dr. Taylor, his attendant physician, and as soon as his foot was dressed sunk into a quiet and refreshing sleep, which lasted until 10h. 42m. 12s. yesterday morning. He then appeared to be considerably better and limped but little as he made his circuits. His foot, however, was still very bad, and from its condition plainly showed the indomitable perseverance of the man who would try to walk while suffering the pain he must have felt. In fact no ordinary man would have ventured even to put his foot to the ground, let alone walking on it. He scored his 255th mile at 12h. 6m. 2s., and his 260th at 1h. 21m. 36s. He here indulged in a rest for over an hour, and resumed his walk at 2h. 28m. 8s. His foot was all this time rapidly improving, but still was very sore. The 266th mile was scored at 3h. 35m. 40s., and his 275th at 5h. 48m. 20s., when he rested for supper and resumed his perigrinations at 7h. 27m. 40s. He then walked 13 miles, making the 40th of the day and the 288th of the journey, indulging once more in a rest for a few minutes only, when he again toed the mark and commenced his new tramp, with the intention of completing his 300th mile before retiring to bed. He was then to sleep four hours and make a struggle to complete 375 miles by to-night at twelve o'clock.

A TERRIBLE SACRIFICE.

NEW YORK, Oct. 9, 1874.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

In reading the order from the Navy Department on the heroism of Commodore Woolsey the question arose in my mind why the department should accept such a sacrifice. Surely his place could not be filled by many men to the government, and, God knows, not to his family. This act of heroism was for what? It is peaceful times, and the fever in Pensacola has been raging for over five weeks. Why were not those healthy men placed on board the monitors and all towed out? Even thirty miles' distance would have saved the lives of twenty men who have left their homes desolate. In that one little sand heap there are over twenty children fatherless. It will take a great deal of faith to make any one believe that letters of praise for heroism will pay for grief and desolation.

JUSTICE.

LITERATURE.

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE DISCOVERY OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT. BY GEORGE BANCROFT. VOL. X. BOSTON: LITTLE, BROWN & CO.

Forty eventful years have passed since Mr. Bancroft published the first volume of the important work which he has now completed. He was then thirty-four years of age, the head of the Round Hill School, whose site overlooks the picturesque valley in which nestles the lovely village of Northampton; a young man of rare culture, various accomplishments and high hopes, who, after an early graduation at Harvard, had pursued his studies in the most famous of the German universities, and, by a happy union of patriotic ardor with literary ambition, was impelled to write the history of his country. He has devoted to this great task the chief activity of a long, laborious life, and his fellow citizens will offer their congratulations that he has been spared to bring it to a definite conclusion.

Notwithstanding the general popularity of Mr. Bancroft's history and the high rank accorded him in the republic of letters, he is vulnerable to criticism, and of late years some of his critics have given him rather rough handling. After the publication of the last preceding volume especially, he was assailed with great vigor and some acrimony by several distinguished writers, who impeached his accuracy and fidelity. But previously to the appearance of his ninth volume the assaults of his critics were principally directed against the literary execution of his work, and his most partial admirers cannot deny his tendency to literary tinsel and stilted grandiloquence. These besetting weaknesses of Mr. Bancroft's style do not so much appear in the strictly narrative portions of his work as in the frequent episodes and rhetorical flourishes, which might be pruned away without impairing its value as a history. His narrative style combines in a singular degree the merits of clearness, animation and dramatic effect, although it is deficient in ease and simplicity. By dropping the pages and passages which he considers particularly fine the chief faults of taste which disfigure his volumes could be made to disappear. Nothing is easier than for hostile critics to make his history seem ridiculous by culling out and presenting together its bombastic flights. But to a continuous reader, who seeks only information in Mr. Bancroft's pages, these excrescences seem to relieve his narrative, or, at least, may be easily skipped by readers whose taste they offend. We have a sincere respect for some of his critics; but their efforts remind us of Swift's satirical representation that the primitive critics "were a race of men who delighted to nibble at the superfluities and excrescences of books; which the learned at length observing took warning of their own accord to lop the luxuriant, the rotten, the dead, the sapless and the overgrown branches from their works." Swift carries out his witty malice against the critics by observing that the ancients "learned the art of pruning their vines by noticing that when an ass had browsed upon one of them it throve the better and bore fairer fruit." Unfortunately Mr. Bancroft has never fully learned this useful lesson; but his last volume has fewer of his characteristic superfine passages than any of its predecessors. It is to be regretted that his own pruning hook has not left less for the critics to browse upon. Mr. Bancroft's accuracy has been impugned only by the possessors of family papers; but such documents are not always trustworthy. To mention one example out of a multitude, there are remarkable discrepancies between the private papers of Hamilton and Madison respecting the authorship of particular papers in the *Federalist;* but it would be absurd for the successors of either to inculpate a historian because his narrative could not be reconciled with records which are inconsistent with each other.

After due allowance is made for Mr. Bancroft's literary foibles, there must remain to him the incontestable merit of having given infinitely more time and research to the sources of American history than any other man who has yet lived. He is the only writer who has industriously explored every accessible field of information. With a slight exception, in favor of Sparks, all the writers of our annals have drawn their information almost solely from American journals. Irving, in his "Life of Washington," has covered a great part of Mr. Bancroft's ground, but his materials consisted of little else than Washington's writings and the American archives, as he states in his preface. Hildreth's useful work rests entirely upon American documents and authorities. Mr. Bancroft's fruitful inquiries have taken a far wider range. He has delved in search of materials in all the archives of Europe, and has had access to the correspondence and private papers of the statesmen who took an interest in American affairs or acted a part in relation to them during the period of our Revolution. The State paper offices of all the governments of Europe have been freely thrown open either to him directly or to diplomatic friends who have assisted him in his researches. In the richness of his materials Mr. Bancroft is unrivalled, and cheap sneers at the occasional grandiloquence of his style cannot depose him from the position of supremacy which he holds in public estimation as the most fully informed man of our time in all matters connected with the rise of our Republic. Mr. Bancroft does not in the least resemble pretenders who write descriptions of countries in which they have never travelled. The diligent, exhaustive research in which Mr. Bancroft has neither equal nor second in the department of American history is the highest claim to attention which a writer of our annals can offer. And, besides, he is a picturesque, interesting narrator, and he has tried, not without success, to trace the causes of great events and place them in philosophical sequence. Some of his worst faults of taste are indeed committed in connection with this part of his work, as if, in a vain struggle to grasp conceptions which were a little beyond him, he sought to lift himself by a balloon into that region of wide survey to which the eagle rises by strength of wing. But even when he mounts in his most swelling balloon Mr. Bancroft seldom fails to take in something of the broad landscape spread out below.

The present volume, which ends with the treaty of peace by which American independence was secured, begins with the state of our affairs immediately after the alliance with France in 1778. In the last paragraph of his preceding volume Mr. Bancroft said:—"So the flags of France and the United States went together into the field against Great Britain." From that period the American struggle became a leading topic of European politics, and throughout the present volume important light is thrown upon the war by Mr. Bancroft's extensive European researches. From that time forward the public heart of every leading country palpitated in sympathy or opposition. England soon found herself at war not only with America and France, but with Spain, with Holland, and with the sentiments and good wishes, though not with the armies, of Prussia and Russia. The great Frederick of Prussia, though lending no open assistance, had done all in his power to encourage France to take up our cause, and from the unpublished correspondence between him and his Ministers at foreign courts Mr. Bancroft has derived a rich fund of interesting materials. He finds one singularity in Frederick's correspondence which gives him more surprise than seems quite warranted. "I sought for some expression," he says, "on the part of Frederick of a personal interest in Washington; but I found none." Washington was too staid a character to excite the admiration of impetuous men of genius. Even our own Hamilton undervalued him, as Mr. Bancroft is compelled to state. Speaking of Hamilton in this volume, Mr. Bancroft says:—"The years of his life which were most productive of good were those in which he acted with Washington, who was the head, the leader and the guide of a nation in a manner which he was not only incapable of, but could never even fully comprehend. While the weightiest testimony that has ever been borne to the ability of Hamilton is by Washington, there never fell from Hamilton's pen during the lifetime of the latter one line which adequately expressed the character of Washington." John Adams, who also knew Washington well, always considered him an inferior man to himself. The uninventive slowness of Washington's intellect made it difficult for men of rapid perception and fervid fertility of ideas to do him full justice. Frederick knew him only as a military commander, and in comparison with his own brilliant campaigns, by which the art of war was advanced, those of Washington must have seemed to betoken a commonplace order of generalship. The Fabian tactics of the prudent American commander must have seemed tame to the great captain who had astonished and dazzled Europe by almost miraculous victories against mighty odds. No public man in Europe had so early and intuitive a perception of the hopelessness of the British attempt to subdue us as Frederick the Great. The copious extracts from his correspondence given in Mr. Bancroft's third chapter are among the most interesting things in this volume. When, in 1777, he was trying to push France into the contest, Frederick wrote to his Ambassador at Paris:—"Her first interest requires the enfeeblement of Great Britain, and the way to this is to make it lose its colonies in America. Her present opportunity is more favorable than ever before existed and more favorable than is likely to recur in three centuries." In the same year, commenting on the military movements in America, Frederick said:—"England made originally an awkward mistake in going to war with her colonies; then followed the illusion of being able to subjugate them with seven thousand men; next the scattering of its different corps, which has caused the failure of all its enterprises."

There are scores of places in this volume in which new light is shed upon our contest for independence by the rare and curious materials which Mr. Bancroft has gathered in his European researches. He states that the best existing account of the proceedings of the Continental Congress, which sat with closed doors, is found in the despatches of the French agents, who found means of gaining the confidence of members and sent home to their government an exact recital of every important thing that occurred. In discussing the motives which impelled England to commence, and France and Spain afterward to participate in the war, Mr. Bancroft is agreeably full and instructive. His first chapter, especially, in which he deals with the causes which led Great Britain into her great mistake, is one of Mr. Bancroft's best titles to the character of a philosophical historian. He maintains that the American war was a natural outgrowth of the supremacy of Parliament, first established by the Revolution of 1688, and confirmed by again changing the succession in favor of the house of Hanover. By its successful resistance to regal tyranny Parliament won the support of the people and then took advantage of their confidence to undermine their liberties. The narrowness of the representation made Parliament the instrument of the aristocracy, and as the people felt no love for their foreign kings they had no rallying point for creating a counterpoise to aristocratic supremacy. One of the first evil fruits of Parliamentary arrogance was the oppression of Ireland, and then followed the attempt to crush freedom in the colonies. The American war was, therefore, as Mr. Bancroft holds, also a war against the rights of the English people, and British liberty as well as American was staked in our contest. If Parliament had succeeded in maintaining the omnipotence it asserted over the colonies, English freedom would have fallen in their subjugation. Close upon our success efforts began to be made for Parliamentary reform, and the partial emancipation of Ireland was another direct consequence. This train of sequences is very clearly developed by Mr. Bancroft.

The diplomatic intrigues of Spain, as peace approached, to confine our boundaries so as not to endanger her possessions on the Mississippi form the subject of a curious and interesting chapter. Spain desired that the ridge of the Alleghanies should form our western limit, and insisted that, at all events, it should not extend to the Mississippi. "From the grandeur of destiny foretold by the possession of that river," says Mr. Bancroft, "and the lands drained by its waters, the Bourbons of Spain, hoping to act in concert with Great Britain as well at France, would have excluded the United States totally and forever." In describing that great water way as a bond of the American Union Mr. Bancroft gives a characteristic specimen of his eloquence which we will here insert:—

The Mississippi River is the guardian and the pledge of the union of the States of America. Had they been confined to the eastern slope of the Alleghanies there would have been no geographical unity between them, and the thread of connection between lands that merely fringed the Atlantic must soon have been sundered. The Father of Rivers gathers his waters from all the clouds that break between the Alleghanies and the farthest ranges of the Rocky Mountains. The ridges of the eastern chain bow their heads at the north and at the south, so that long before science became the companion of man nature herself pointed out to the barbarous races how short portages join his tributary rivers to those of the Atlantic coast. At the other side his mightiest arm interlocks with the arms of the Oregon and the Colorado, and by the conformation of the earth itself, marshals highways to the Pacific. From his remotest springs he refuses to suffer his waters to be divided; but as he bears them all to the bosom of the ocean the myriads of flags that wave above his head are all the ensigns of one people. States larger than kingdoms flourish where he passes; and beneath his steps cities start into being more marvellous in their reality than fabled creations of enchantment. His magnificent valley, lying in the best part of the temperate zone, salubrious, wonderfully fertile, is the chosen muster ground of the most various elements of human culture brought together by men, summoned from all the civilized nations of the earth, and joined in the bonds of common citizenship by the strong, invisible attraction of republican freedom. Now that science has come to be the household friend of trade and commerce and travel, and that nature has lent to wealth and intellect her constant forces, the hills, once walls of division, are scaled or pierced or levelled; and the two oceans, between which the Republic has unassailably intrenched itself against the outward world, are bound together across the Continent by friendly links of iron.

To a severe taste there may, perhaps, seem a tinge of literary affectation in this, but it nevertheless embodies a majestic conception impressively amplified and developed. It is the most ambitious passage in the volume, and the thought is important enough to support a good deal of embellishment. In recounting the military events of this period, Mr. Bancroft makes no strained attempts at fine writing, and his narrative is always perspicuous and interesting. There is occasionally a summing up, which is a model of rigorous conciseness. The last specimen is this severe but admirable review of the military career of General Howe in America:—

Brave and an adept in military science, Howe had failed in the conduct of the war from sluggish dilatoriness, want of earnest enterprise and love of the pleasures which excite a coarse nature. On landing near Bunker Hill he had sufficient troops to have turned the position of the Americans; but he delayed just long enough for them to prepare for his attack. He was driven out of Boston from his most unmilitary neglect to occupy Dorchester Heights, which overlook the town. He took his troops in mid-winter to the bleak, remote and then scarcely inhabited Halifax, instead of sailing to Rhode Island, or some convenient nook on Long Island within the Sound, where he would have found a milder climate, greater resources and nearness to the scene of his next campaign. In the summer of 1776, marching by night to attack General Putnam in his lines at Brooklyn, he lost the best chance for success by halting his men for rest and breakfast. When his officers still reported to him that they could easily storm the American intrenchments he forbade them to make the attempt. His want of vigilance was so great that he let Washington pass a day in collecting boats and a night and morning in retreating across an arm of the sea, and knew not what was done till he was aroused from his slumber after sunrise. When with his undivided force he might have reached Philadelphia, he detached four brigades and eleven ships-of-war to Rhode Island, where the troops remained for three years in idle uselessness. Failing to cross the Delaware, he occupied New Jersey with isolated detachments which Washington was able to cut to pieces in detail. In 1777, instead of an early and active campaign, he lingered in New York till midsummer, and then neglected to make a connection with Burgoyne. He passed the winter in Philadelphia without once attempting to break up the American camp at Valley Forge, corrupting his own army by his example of licentiousness and teaching the young officers how to ruin themselves by gaming. The manner in which he threw up his command was a defiance of his government and an open declaration to all Europe that the attempt of England to reduce its colonies must certainly fail.

This closing volume of Mr. Bancroft is the most instructive of the series. Some of the preceding may perhaps have more military interest, but this volume touches on many great political subjects and diplomatic movements of the deepest consequence. Some of its half military episodes, like the capture and execution of Major André, are of the most thrilling character. It embraces the period when the Articles of Confederation were adopted, and exhibits the deplorable defects of that imbecile arrangement. It exposes the mischiefs and iniquities of the Continental and other paper money. It gives the history of the new State constitutions formed after the dissolution of the colonial tie. It traces the true genesis of the jealous State rights feeling and shows that it did not result from the institution of slavery, but from the principles of human nature. It throws much new light on the negotiations for peace. "With regard to the peace," says Mr. Bancroft in his preface "between the United States and England, I think I might say that my materials in their completeness are unique."

The public will take leave of Mr. Bancroft with sincere regret that his long literary labors are ended. No other writer of our history has approached him in extent of research and fulness of investigation, and, in spite of the glitter of false ornament, to which he is too much addicted, his voluminous work is, as a whole, exceedingly pleasant and readable. We fear a long period will elapse before a successor arises who will devote as much labor, as much love and pride of country, as much enthusiasm and such ripe and varied literary attainments to a similar work.

LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

THE volumes to be published in the International Scientific Series during the coming season will be Professor Marcy's "Animal Mechanism;" Dr. H. Vogel on the "Chemistry of Light and Photography," which will be profusely illustrated; Professor Oscar Schmidt on the "Doctrine of Descent and Darwinism;" Professor Lommel on "Optics," and Dr. Van Beneden on "Parasites in the Animal Kingdom."

AMONG Longman's forthcoming publications are "A Journey up the Nile," by Miss Amelia B. Edwards and an account of Isaac Casaubon, by the Rev. Mark Pattison, rector of Lincoln College, Oxford.

MR. J. E. BAILEY'S "Life of Thomas Fuller" differs from its predecessors, in being for the most part autobiographic. Copious extracts are given from some of Fuller's less known or unique productions; and some of his scarcest works and various literary rarities, with which he is connected, are given *verbatim*.

THE French Academy offers a prize of $500 for the best work on metaphysics as a science, and one of $600 for the best work on the stoic philosophy.

THE most elaborate musical biography ever written will be Mr. A. W. Thayer's "Life of Beethoven," in four volumes. Two volumes have already appeared in the German language at Berlin, but the English version (though the author is an American) will not appear until the completion of the work in German.

A COLLECTION of legends illustrating the history of old Louisiana are in progress, under the hand of Mrs. Maria Bushnell Williams, of Opelousas, a lady whom Miss Raymond, in her critical biographies of "Southland Writers," describes as the most learned woman in America.

LAWYERS will be glad to know that Mr. Justice Miller, of the United States Supreme Court, is engaged in editing a digest of the reports of the Supreme Court from the eighteenth Howard to the eighteenth Wallace, or from 1855, where Curtis' digest closes, to the present date. The first volume will soon be ready.

ART MATTERS.

"The Hunter's Home."

T. L. Smith has on exhibition at Goupil's Gallery one of his charming moonlight pictures representing the lonely home of a hunter on the shore of a lake. The picture is rather a lake study by moonlight than properly a study of a hunter's home, for, indeed, all we see of the latter is a little log cabin with a flood of light streaming through the windows overlooking the water. There is an extremely poetic feeling in the sense of utter loneliness, which the artist manages to convey by contrasting the brightness of the rude hearth with the sombre tints of the woods and the ghostly grays of the far off seen hills and skies. The farthest hills are, to our seeming, slightly too pronounced, and do not fade away in the shadowy night, as in nature they would do; but the artist has managed to throw round a thoroughly American subject the same exquisite sense of romance with which he has hitherto invested ruined castles and baronial chateaux. We are glad of it, for there is as much poetry in the mysticism of our woods and the wild grandeur of our lakes as can be evoked from the ivy clad ruins of Europe if only sympathetic spirits will seek it out. This last work of Mr. Smith is a creditable contribution to American art.

The National Academy of Design.

The drawing classes of the National Academy of Design are again open to pupils under the excellent direction of Professor Wilmarth, who has conducted the classes for the last few years with most satisfactory result.

LORD RIPON'S CATHOLIC ASSOCIATES.

[London (Sept. 24) correspondence of Liverpool Mercury.]

While Lord Ripon does not forget his old friends of the Protestant faith, like Lord Aberdare and Lord Wolverton—the Mr. Bruce and Mr. Glyn of eighteen months ago—he is gathering around him acquaintances who hold his new faith. Among the party now staying at Studley Royal are Sir Charles Douglas and Mr. Doyle. Sir Charles, who is a natural son of a brother of a former Lord Hardwicke, was private secretary to Lord Ripon's father when that nobleman was Colonial Secretary. He was for fifteen years member of Parliament for Warwick, and afterwards represented Banbury for a few months. While in Parliament he was an advanced liberal, and was one of the foremost antagonists of church rates. But he changed his faith and joined the Roman Church. Mr. R. Doyle, another of the Marquis' guests, is, I presume, the well known artist who used to sign his caricatures "H. B.," and for several years contributed the best of the cartoons to *Punch*, but left the staff of that paper about twenty-five years ago because he, being a Roman Catholic, could not remain connected with a journal which at that time—the period of the Papal aggression—was constantly deriding his Church. By this step he surrendered a considerable income. Subsequently he illustrated "The Newcomes" and the journey of "Brown, Jones and Robinson." Another of Lord Ripon's guests is Lady Rose Weigall, who, though the daughter of an earl, married a portrait painter. She contributed some months ago an article to the *Quarterly Review* on the Princess Charlotte, and Lady Rose has since then expanded the article into a volume.

"HONESTY IN HORSE FEED."

NEW YORK, Oct. 8, 1874.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

As a consumer I was much pleased with an article on the 6th inst. in your paper under the above head. The facts you therein stated in regard to the wood on bale hay, although new to the consumer, were well known to the trade. I would now call your attention to a fact in regard to loose hay. In nine cases out of ten a load of hay, if weighed correctly, will fall short 300 to 500 pounds as compared with the ticket weight. Sometimes the weight of the wagon is involved in the ticket weight. Let the consumer look to this, and in every case reweigh the hay. It is not my duty to state how this error occurs. It is sufficient to put the consumer on his guard and tell him how to protect himself.

FAIR WEIGHTS.

THE LABOR LEAGUE IN EUROPE.

Secession from the Ranks of the International.

A letter from Geneva in the Paris *Debats* of September 23 gives an account of a Workmen's League, which has been formed by seceders from the International. The new society affirms that the International has made a mistake in aiming at the destruction of modern society and the creation of a new political and economical organization. The object, it contends, should be the emancipation of the working class, and gradual progress must be counted upon. To effect their emancipation they must agitate for universal suffrage in countries where it does not already exist, and where it exists they must direct legislation and government to liberty and equality, the development and production and the general welfare. Workmen must also combine so as to be able to treat with employers on equal terms. Each trade, it is suggested, should have a local union, which should be affiliated to a higher union of the same trade, and an international congress should be held yearly, composed of delegates of the international corporations and of the National unions. The societies are to assist each other in all economical disputes, promote an equal distribution of labor by means of emigration, and secure an international standard of wages as the corrollary of the present equality in the price of provisions.

GRAND SCULLING CONTEST.

John A. Biglin, of New York, vs. James A. Ten Eyck, of Peekskill.

The State Championship and $1,000.

Biglin the Winner—Three Miles in Lumpy Water in 23 Minutes.

NYACK, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1874.

After two days of weary waiting, the first of which brought together at this lovely village many of the prominent boating men of the country, the race of three miles—one and a half and return—between those professional scullers John A. Biglin, of New York, and James A. Ten Eyck, of Peekskill, for $1,000 and the State championship, was decided this morning at an early hour, on the Hudson, resulting in a victory for Biglin, a termination not unlooked for by the better posted oarsmen. The settlement of this question has been anxiously looked forward to by all of the aquatic-loving community in the country, inasmuch as the friends of Ten Eyck, viewing him as the coming man, were loud in their praises that he could put any man in New York State astern of him in such a contest as that just decided, these speeches of boastfulness being particularly marked from the time that James defeated Scharff last June. Since this morning they may have changed their opinion, and yet the loser should not suffer thereby, as he is a capital young oarsman.

THE PRINCIPALS.

John A. Biglin was born in Cambria county, Pennsylvania, January 30, 1844, and therefore will soon be thirty-one years old. His height, without shoes, is five feet nine and three-quarter inches, and this morning he scaled 164 pounds, which is one pound more than he weighed when he beat Ellis Ward two years ago at this place.

James A. Ten Eyck is a native of this State, having been born at Tompkins Cove, on the Hudson, October 16, 1851, being therefore within a week of his twenty-fourth birthday. He did his training at Peekskill, and came to the post weighing 139 pounds, feeling well and looking grandly, his boyish face glowing with the hue of perfect health.

AT THE STARTING POINT.

Notwithstanding the postponements of Wednesday and yesterday, caused by the rough water, those strangers that remained over at Nyack, together with hundreds of the inhabitants, wended their way to the river, filling the steamboat dock, surrounding Haines' boathouse, where Biglin's shell was stowed, and every other available resting place that afforded an opportunity to see the start. The heavy, flying scud that darkened the sky on the preceding days had vanished, and the clear, blue dome of heaven was visible. Old Sol, who had so long hid his face behind the hills, blazed bright and warm on the scene, and the wind had veered to sou'-sou'-west. There was but little betting, as the friends of Ten Eyck asked such long odds that those disposed to risk their money on Biglin turned away in disgust. As there was no tugboat on hand to take the referee over the course the Tappan Zee Boat Club loaned him their four-oared gig, George Washington, and a crew being made up, of which Frank Bell was stroke, Commodore Vorhis thus followed the rowers. At the same time the reporters were kindly cared for in this particular by Captain Charles Haines, of the above club, forming a crew for their eight-oared barge and pulling stroke himself, enabling the scribes to see the entire race. The judges were:—For Biglin—upper stakeboat, Charles Ward; lower, Tom Ferris; for Ten Eyck—upper stakeboat, James Ten Eyck; lower, James Sarles.

THE COURSE

was from the stakeboats moored off the steamboat dock near Haines' boathouse, one mile and a half down stream and return, making three miles. The men were ordered to their places about twenty minutes past nine o'clock, and at this time the scene was very animated. Frank Bell having before this tossed with Ten Eyck's father for positions, and Bell winning, selected the inside for Biglin, next the dock.

THE SHELLS

in which they sat are as follows:—

James W. Booth, rowed by John A. Biglin, of New York; material, Spanish cedar; length, 30 feet 6 inches; beam, 11½ inches; depth, 6 inches; weight, 32 lbs.; sliding seat; builder, Charles B. Elliott, Greenpoint, L. I.; Donoghue's sculls, 10 feet long; weight, 7¼ lbs. Colors, blue and white.

Jennie Wines, rowed by James A. Ten Eyck, of Peekskill, N. Y.; material, Spanish cedar; length, 30 feet; beam, 10¾ inches; depth, 5 inches; weight, 33 lbs.; sliding seat; builder, Thomas Fearon, Yonkers, N. Y.; Donoghue's sculls, 10 feet long; weight, 7½ lbs. Colors, red, white and blue.

THE RACE.

It was the last of the flood, and the water was still somewhat lumpy, but yet sufficiently smooth to start the shells. The eyes of the multitude were earnestly fixed upon the rowers as they silently worked their tiny craft into position, and when Commodore Voorhis stood up in the gig to give them the word there was almost an unbroken silence. There was but a moment to wait, as at 9h. 27m. 47s. the order to be away was given, both catching the water beautifully together. Now the brazen throats of the masculines were opened to the widest extent, and successive shouts of encouragement cheered the rowers on. Ten Eyck after the first stroke or two drew a little ahead of John, as the latter for a second did not put in power on his sculls, as he thought a boat had rowed in his way, but finding himself mistaken he hit them up to the time of 36 to the minute, and 200 yards away the scullers were on even terms. Ten Eyck pulling about 37. In this manner and with graceful and effective strokes the shells glided swiftly down the stream, nose and nose, until a quarter of a mile away when Biglin commenced to shove the bow of the Booth in advance, and the race promised to be a tremendous one in earnest. John never stopped his forging business until he was half a length in advance, and as the white church on the hill was shot by both were cracking their shells 34 to the minute. Biglin's stroke proved more effective than that of his antagonist, inasmuch as John's shell went through the water faster, although Jimmy wrenched his sculls through, in and out, with a vim and determination that entitled him to commendation. Half-way down the course, passing the Tappan Zee House, Jimmy reduced Biglin's lead somewhat, but not sufficiently to prevent the latter from reaching his stake first, John rounding the boat in just 12m. 13s. from the start, six seconds in advance of Jimmy. Both made admirable turns, and soon straightening up they taxed their muscular powers to the utmost, and with tide and wind in their favor the keen edged boats almost flew through the water. Biglin was doing grand work now, and on reaching the Tappan Zee House he had opened a gap of two and a half lengths, which he maintained, despite the exertions of the little man behind him. Those that could see the struggle were now certain that despite an accident Biglin could not lose, as Ten Eyck here fell in behind John, getting his wash, and giving the latter an opportunity of governing himself by Jimmy's work. Biglin was now pulling 35 and Ten Eyck 36 to the minute. Thus they kept until within a quarter of a mile of the finish, when Ten Eyck pulled out from Biglin's wash, and hitting the Jennie Wines with a vicious stroke, drew up on John and tried to reach ahead of him, but the veteran was ready, and, fully responding to the exigencies of the occasion, the Booth went humming up to the score and over it one length in front, in such a manner that as he swept by the dock a perfect hurricane of cheers greeted him and handkerchiefs were waved energetically in honor of his great victory. Ten Eyck rowed a game race, and, though a loser, need not be ashamed of his day's work. Time, 23 minutes.

SUMMARY.

NYACK, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1874.—Sculling match for $1,000 and the State championship; course on the Hudson River, three miles, from stakeboats anchored off the steamboat dock down stream one and a half miles to stakeboats and return. Weather clear and moderately warm; wind fresh, from south-southwest; water lumpy. Referee, starter and stakeholder, Commodore William Voorhis.

John A. Biglin, of New York	1
James A. Ten Eyck, of Peekskill	2

Time, 23 minutes.

BOAT RACE POSTPONED.

BOSTON, Oct. 9, 1874.

The boat race between Butler and Plaisted is again postponed.

AUSTRO-RUSSIAN ENTENTE.

[From the Brussels Nord, Sept. 24.]

The Cabinet of Vienna neglects no opportunity of drawing closer the bonds which unite the courts of Austria and Russia. The Seventh Regiment of Austrian Uhlans, which had for honorary Colonel the Emperor of Russia, has just sent a deputation to St. Petersburg to compliment His Majesty on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his appointment to that dignity. At the banquet given to the delegates by the Czar and the Grand Dukes who have a military grade His Majesty drank to the health of his best friend, the Emperor Francis-Joseph.

"The news of this toast," says the *Tages Press*, of Vienna, "has caused great joy throughout Austria."